

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 MCE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 COME-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /092 W
-----025003 311644Z /41

O 311549Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6996
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 6532

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJ: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREECE AWAITS HOUSE EMBARGO VOTE

1. THE PRINCIPAL NEW DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE OVER THE WEEKEND IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMBARGO WAS ANOTHER GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE. OBVIOUSLY SMARTING FROM OPPOSITION CRITICISM THAT PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS HAD NOT DONE ENOUGH TO INFLUENCE THE U.S. CONGRESS, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAID ON SATURDAY THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WANTS THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY TO BE MAINTAINED.

2. A MEETING SATURDAY AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND ATTENDED BY DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS AND THE GREEK DELEGATION TO THE ISTANBUL AIR SPACE TALKS LED TO ALL KINDS OF SPECULATION. THE AIR SPACE TALKS WITH THE TURKEY, WHICH OPEN IN ISTANBUL TODAY, WERE OBVIOUSLY THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF THE MEETING DURING WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR MACRIS. HOWEVER,
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IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THIS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE IMPACT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD HAVE ON THE BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, AND WHAT ACTIONS GREECE SHOULD TAKE TO DEAL WITH SUCH A CONTINGENCY. MENAWHILE, HOWEVER, ALL EYES ARE ON WASHINGTON WAITING FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE HOUSE VOTE.

3. WORTHY OF NOTE AMONG EDITORIALS OVER THE WEEKEND, BECAUSE IT REFLECTS SO WELL THE MOOD IN THIS COUNTRY, WAS PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI'S "IT WOULD BE A DELUSION" (FBIS 301520Z JUL 78-NOTAL). THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THOSE WHO SOFTPEDAL THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. IT STRESSED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAMPAIGN TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, IN VIOLATION OF EARLIER PROMISES, HAS PROVOKED STRONG INDIGNATION AND INTENSE NEGATIVE REACTIONS TOWARD THE U.S. AMONG GREEKS, IN GREECE AND CYPRUS. AND THIS EVEN AMONG THE MOST CONSERVATIVE AND ACTIVELY PRO-WESTERN ELEMENTS OF GREEK SOCIETY. ANY ATTEMPT BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS TO BLUNT THESE FEELINGS WOULD BE FUTILE IN THE FACE OF THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS. THOSE IN THE U.S. WHO TAKE THE GREEKS FOR GRANTED AND SAY THEY ARE "GOOD BOYS" ARE MISLED. FOTUNATELY, THE GREEKS HAVE SEVERAL CHOICES, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, AND ANY GOVRNMENT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE WILL BE GUIDED BY GREECE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS. MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS06532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780313-0305
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978071/aaaaaob.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e2ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 aug 2006
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1842651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREECE AWAITS HOUSE EMBARGO VOTE
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e2ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014